



PRINT FORMAT
SPONSORED BY

Hangover? Del. can help you recover

Many remedies begin production in First State

By VICTOR GRETO, The News Journal

Posted Monday, January 1, 2007

As you work to clear your head and calm your stomach after a night of delicious debauchery, think fondly of the First State on the first day of 2007.

After all, Delaware is home to a number of companies that manufacture, distribute, package or add ingredients to a few remedies you may need as you read these blurry words.

If you've already reached for Mylanta or milk of magnesia to bring relief to your broiling stomach, part of what you're downing is magnesium sulfate, made by SPI Pharma in Lewes.

And it's created, in part, from Delaware Bay water.

Yes, you read that right.

They actually have a way of treating the water that helps you -- at least temporarily.

Ever wonder what holds together all the ingredients in those pain-relief pills you popped either this morning or (hopefully) last night, just before you fell into bed?

It's likely a form of cellulose manufactured by Newark's FMC BioPolymer, the world's leading producer of the stuff.

But many of the Delaware-made drugs that can help you today, you won't be able to get without a prescription.

For instance, Noramco Inc., a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson located in Wilmington, makes the codeine that goes into Tylenol 3 and other pain medications.

Considering last night, you may want to fall into a vat of the white powder this morning, but, according to Vince Kranz, environmental health and safety manager at Noramco, it's produced in very small amounts.

And security is tight.

"We have 24-7 security, 365 days a year, a direct line into the Wilmington Police Department and a mix of our own hired external security guards and our own employees who are security guards," he said.

Oh, fuggedaboudit.

But let's not forget about AstraZeneca's Nexium and Prilosec, drugs that reduce stomach acid -- and come in handy today.

Dr. Doug Levine, gastroenterologist and clinical development leader for Nexium, says the drug treats acid reflux disease, a condition "often caused by a weakened valve at the bottom of the food tube. In some degree, it's a plumbing disorder, and anything that increases pressure on it will worsen the condition."

Like overeating and too much booze.

Now, on to packaging.

Ever hear of "blister packaging?" It has plastic bubbles on one side, aluminum foil on the other and a pill stuck inside. To get any relief, you have to push the pill out toward the foil side with your thumb.

The plastic bubble stuff is made by INEOS Films Inc. in Delaware City. (Or will be starting in March. Right now, the factory is cutting the ready-made rolls of plastic imported from Europe.)

The factory also will make the hard plastic sheets that form another pain reliever or inducer -- your credit card.

"A credit card is made up of about four layers of sheet film that we sell," said Steve Reynolds, the factory's general manager. "Customers print 50 to 70 cards on one side, and then print on the other side and laminate them together."

There are other things, too, that the state produces that can help you through a rough first day of 2007.

How about Seaford's Craig Technologies? It makes the ball bearings that go into just about every aerosol can in the U.S. -- including WD-40.

That's for your creaking joints.

Happy New Year.

Copyright © 2007, The News Journal. Use of this site signifies your agreement to the [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#) (updated 10/3/2005) Use of this site signifies your agreement to the [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#) (updated 10/3/2005)